

November 19, 2014

Frank Biba Chief, Environmental Program DNEP - City of Annapolis 145 Gorman Street, 3rd Floor Annapolis, Md. 21401

P&Z File No.:

PLD 2014

Project:

Annapolis Townes at Neal Farm

Dear Mr. Biba:

The purpose of this letter is to provide additional justification for the proposed clearing of portions of Forest Stands B-1, B-2, and D during the construction of the Annapolis Townes at Neal Farm residential development. As you are aware, our firm prepared a Forest Stand Delineation (FSD) Report (dated April 19, 2013) for this property, which was subsequently approved by your office. To aid in the preparation of this letter, I conducted a site visit on November 18, 2014 to examine the current forest conditions. My field visit confirmed that the aforementioned forest stands are of lower quality for reasons that were also discussed in the previously approved FSD Report. First, these forest stands are characterized as relatively young stands with a significantly high percent cover of invasive species such as English ivy, wineberry, multiflora rose, Japanese honeysuckle, and bittersweet. In many areas, the existing trees are growing on disturbed soils with scattered trash and debris, particularly within Stand B-1. For the most part, Stands B-1 and B-2 are dominated by early successional species such as black locust, black cherry, mulberry, and sassafras. Because of these factors, Stands B-1 and B-2 are considered as having low quality and do not warrant preservation.

Immediately adjacent to Stand B-1 is Stand D, which is dominated by a relatively even-aged stand of yellow poplars within diameters ranging between 17 and 24 inches. However, within Stand D, the majority of the existing yellow poplars are characterized as having poor structure, as evidenced by numerous multi-trunk conditions with decay points, broken off main leaders/limbs, unbalanced crowns, leaning, and shared root systems. Several trees were also observed to have cavities and/or evidence of past lightning strikes. As a result of these conditions, I have downgraded the following trees from either a good or fair condition to a poor condition: Tree #'s 147, 149, 150, 151, 161, 184, 186, 196, 198, 200, 202, 203, 204, and 275. In addition, Tree #187 was downgraded from good to fair, while Tree #180 has died. Overall, more than 90% of the trees identified in Stands B-1 and D are currently rated in fair or worse condition. The overall health of both of these stands is poor and preservation of these stands is not warranted. Furthermore, no specimen trees exist in either of these stands.

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Mr. Frank Biba November 19, 2014 -Page 2-

In order to minimize any adverse impacts on adjacent, high quality Stand A, the applicant proposes to implement a three (3)-year maintenance program designed to eradicate and control any nuisance/invasive species that may invade Stand A. The maintenance program will be submitted in the future for your office's review and approval.

The developer and engineer have created a plan that reduces the density of the project from 159 multifamily units to 50 townhouse units. In doing so, they minimized the impact on the existing forest stands. Furthermore, the developer and the engineer exhausted all possible alternatives to impacting Stands B-1, B-2, and D as referenced in the accompanying letter from Bay Engineering, Inc. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the information contained within this letter.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Klebasko, P.W.S.

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President

Eliot Powell, Whitehall Development, LLC David Plott, Linowes and Blocher Maria Broadbent, DNEP